

April 1st Erosion & Sediment Control Workshop (HBAL March news letter)

With all of the timelines to meet and getting subcontractors in and out, mud in the street may seem to be the least of a builders problems. However, local ordinances prohibit mud on public streets and sidewalks and require that it be removed. Enforcement of these ordinances is becoming a more common occurrence on residential and commercial construction sites all around Lincoln.



Who's mud is it? According to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System or NPDES construction site permit, the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality can, in some cases, hold the developer responsible for individual lots. Also the developer at the time of purchase may require that individual builders be responsible for the clean up of these sites. Regardless of the status of the NPDES permit, the City will pursue the necessary means (e.g. warning letters, fines, clean up and bill back, cease and desist) to get the sediment removed because of water quality impacts and safety concerns to the general public. The bottom line is that property owners are ultimately responsible for the sediment in the street or sidewalks adjacent to their lots.

Impacts to streams and water bodies such as Holmes Lake and the safety of the general public have made this an issue with local tax payers. With the clean up cost of Holmes Lake in the millions, sediment from construction sites has become a major concern.

The City of Lincoln will be hosting a workshop for local builders on how to set up sediment and erosion control measures on a residential construction site. Nation wide, it has been demonstrated that it is less expensive to install sediment and erosion control measures up front as compared to cleaning sediment up later. Clean up costs are avoidable and can be prevented by the use of Best Management Practices or BMP's that are available through many government agency web sites (including the City of Lincoln), vendors and magazines. A few of these BMP's are:

- Erosion control measures placed before a site is excavated and maintained through the construction.
- Remove mud from the tires of delivery vehicles and tracked mud from the street.
- Cleaning up mud or sediment from construction sites daily.
- Rocked drives
- Keeping loose construction materials in dumpsters or enclosed containers.
- Parking vehicles on the street and not on muddy lots.

April 1st, from 1 PM to 4 PM is the time to attend this workshop which will be at the Villager on 52nd at "O" street.

Drawings will be held for those attending the workshop. A \$100 gift certificate and a power tool/certificate giveaway will be provided by sediment and erosion control vendors; ASP Enterprises Inc. and Lumberman's. Both of these vendors will be available at the workshop to answer questions and display sediment and erosion control products.

For additional details contact J.B. Dixon of the Lower Platte South NRD at 476-2729 or Gary Lacy of the City of Lincoln, Public Works and Utilities Department, 441-4957.